

accomplished novelist. Latimer became well-known in the literary world after writing three highly acclaimed novels dealing greatly with the romanticism era. She once said, "There's only one possession that's worth having and that is the capacity to feel that life is a privilege and that each person in it is unique and will never appear again."

The third woman I would like to honor is Zona Gale. Also born in Portage, Wisconsin, Zona Gale was a great novelist and short-story writer. Gale's biggest success was her novel, *Miss Lulu Bett*. This novel was adapted as a play in 1920 and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1921. As an activist for women's rights and the creation of the Wisconsin Equal Rights Law, prohibiting the discrimination of women, many of Gale's feminist politics were expressed in her novels and then plays. Zona Gale passed away in 1938 in Portage, Wisconsin, but her voice will live on through her novels and efforts for women's rights in Wisconsin and around the country.

These three women, along with so many others, inspired hope and possibility not only in Wisconsin, but across the United States. Whether in art or literature, activism or teaching, they deserve our remembrance, not only during the month of March, but throughout the rest of the year as well.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF BRIAN J. SMITH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Mr. Brian Smith, newly appointed Chief of the Waterfront Police Commission of New York & New Jersey, who was sworn into office on Friday, March 25, 2005.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth, for he has a long history of leadership, creativity, and commitment to his noble profession.

After attending Saint Francis College, located in Brooklyn, New York, Brian joined the National Park Service as a U.S. Park Ranger. He eventually ascended to the rank of Supervisory U.S. Park Ranger within the Law Enforcement Division. During his tenure with the National Park Service Brian's talents and stellar reputation earned him a membership with the elite U.S. Park Ranger Special Events Team. Brian also attained a multitude of special licensures ranging from a certified K-9 handler to a RED Card Wild Fire Fighter.

In 1980, Mr. Smith decided to become an officer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Brian was assigned to oversee operations at the various Port Authority facilities such as, the Holland Tunnel and Newark International Airport. After three years of service, Brian felt compelled to make a career change and opted to leave his position with the esteemed Port Authority.

Brian decided to pursue a career with the U.S. Customs Service in the Tactical Enforce-

ment Division; this would prove to be an eighteen year venture. Initially, Brian entered the bureau as a Special Agent with the Office of Investigations and Internal Affairs and quickly flourished. He received a promotion soon after he began with the agency and subsequently served a term at the U.S. Customs Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Over the years, Brian had countless praiseworthy assignments that he fulfilled but two of his most notable duties include: Supervisor of the Dignitary Protection JUMP TEAM and Internal Affairs Desk Officer for the West and Southwest Regions, respectively.

Brian was then appointed to his current position, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Investigations for Region II in 1999. As Special Agent in Charge, he is responsible for enforcing a myriad of Federal Laws and managing the Dignitary Protection efforts throughout the States of New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Region II).

Mr. Smith's spirit of service to our great nation and his unwavering commitment to his fellow man is obvious to all those who know him. His military service has spanned two branches of the Armed Services, including a six year tour of duty in the U. S. Coast Guard Reserve. Additionally, Brian currently serves as a Major with the New York Guard, Civil Affairs Unit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Smith family, and myself in recognizing Chief Brian J. Smith for his outstanding service to the residents of New York and New Jersey.

COMMENDING VILLAGE OF ORCHARD PARK MAYOR PATRICIA A. DICKMAN FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to Patricia A. Dickman, a woman who after years of dedicated public service, will retire from her position as the Village of Orchard Park Mayor in Erie County, New York.

Mayor Dickman's devotion to developing a better future for her community was evident early, as she chose to dedicate 12 years to the teaching profession, educating young people.

Over the last 30 years Mayor Dickman expanded her dedication from working with youth to working with the community as a whole.

Mayor Dickman's government service is extensive. Prior to her election to the seat of Mayor, Ms. Dickman worked for 6 years on the Village of Orchard Park Planning Board, including 4 years as Chair. She also served as a Village of Orchard Park Trustee for 6 years and has led the Beautify Orchard Park Committee for over 24 years.

Throughout her tenure as Mayor, Ms. Dickman has sat on several local boards and organizations including: the Erie County Sewer District III, the Southtown's Sewer Agency, the

Village Officials Association and the Erie County Governments Association.

Though her accomplishments are too numbered to mention here today, some of the highlights of her service consist of contributions to local economic development through the "Façade" program and facilitation of infrastructure projects including reconstruction of Route 240/277. At the same time, through the duration of her term, the Mayor has been successful in maintaining the lowest tax rate in Erie County.

It is with great pride and gratitude I stand here today to recognize Village of Orchard Park Mayor Patricia Dickman, a genuine public servant and faithful community advocate, may her life in retirement be met with the many triumphs achieved in her years as Mayor.

TRIBUTE TO LANSDOWNE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Lansdowne Christian Church of Baltimore County marking its 100th year of celebrating Memorial Day Services. The Church, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 by the U.S. Department of Interior, is the only Church in the United States built to honor the men of the Grand Army of the Republic and the sacrifices they made to preserve the Union.

On May 14, 1905, the first annual Memorial Service for the Grand Army was held at the Lansdowne Christian Church. Memorial Day was established in the wake of the Civil War to remember and pay homage to all those who had died in service to our nation. The Service on the last Sunday in May continues today. This year's service will be held on May 29, 2005, continuing a tradition for which Church members and the community should be very proud.

Today, we are engaged in armed conflict in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Many of our soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice, and it is important that we honor their commitment to freedom and democracy.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting the Lansdowne Christian Church for making duty, service and dedication to our nation a central focus of church life.

RECOGNIZING KEN SLAVENS OF SAINT HELENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Ken Slavens, of Saint Helena, California, for his 21 years of public service. His outstanding leadership and commitment have helped to make